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EXAMINER

GONZALEZ, MADELINE

ART UNIT

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1797

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on August 11, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that "providing Hopkins et al with ribs, as suggested by the examiner in the rejection, would result in the filter element 300 being spaced a significant distance from the end wall 213 and the side wall 211 of the filter housing 200, which would increase the hold-up volume waste in the filter housing, thus rendering the prior art invention unsatisfactory for its intended purpose": This is not persuasive. Modifying Hopkins by adding guide rails to the housing as taught by Coates would have been obvious in order to support and radially align or orient the filter element inside the housing (see col. 5, lines 22-28 of Coates). The size of the ribs can be adjusted according to the desired application and the filter disclosed by Hopkins would still perform according to its intended use.

In response to applicant's argument that Janik lacks a longitudinally extending side wall sloping downwardly toward a water outlet: This argument is not persuasive. Janik teaches a housing 60 having a wall sloping downward toward a water outlet and constitutes a sump 66, as shown in Fig. 1. The lower section 66 may incorporate a selectively actuatable valve or draincock (water outlet) to permit draining of the collected water (see col. 3, lines 15-19). Furthermore, Fig. 5 shows the housing having a cap covering an outlet at the bottom of the housing.

Art Unit: 1797

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MADELINE GONZALEZ whose telephone number is (571)272-5502. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W, Th, F- 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Krishnan S Menon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

Madeline Gonzalez
Patent Examiner
August 16, 2010